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Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 30857

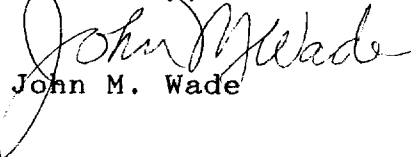
Dear Dr. Henney:

I write to urge that you act to end the use of antibiotics to promote livestock growth, i.e., antibiotics used to treat humans. It is undoubtedly true that use of these antibiotics helps the bottom line of industrial-type agriculture, but jeopardizing the effectiveness of antibiotics essential for public health is too high a price to pay for that.

As you probably know, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other prominent public health organizations have expressed great concern about the massive use of antibiotics to increase livestock weight in light of the growing evidence of antibiotic resistance. There was a recent major article in US News about this. The United States should follow the example of the European Union, which banned adding human-use antibiotics to animal feed last year.

Banning the use of antibiotics as livestock feed additives immediately would be an important step toward ensuring that critical drugs will continue to treat human diseases effectively. We should work to see that antibiotic resistance does not grow into a public health crisis before the United States takes effective action to regulate the unnecessary use of these drugs in animal feeds.

Sincerely,


John M. Wade

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